



NASCAR Theme Races throughout Machine Tool Technology Lab



In order to rejuvenate the Muhlenberg Co. ATC machine tool technology classroom and laboratory, the advisory committee unanimously recommended some changes that they felt would motivate and entice both traditional and non-traditional students to steer toward enrolling in the program.

Instructor Donald Settle said, “Let’s jazz it up – let’s try a theme,” in an effort to positively promote the machine tool technology program. So, a complete makeover was discussed and the NASCAR theme was embraced. With input from students, staff and the advisory committee it was decided to incorporate a NASCAR/Brewco Motorsports theme in the lab and classroom areas. It worked. At the beginning of the 2006-07 school year, Settle welcomed a record number of students into his newly decorated NASCAR themed classroom.

“I wanted to do something to get rid of the battleship gray and lighten up the shop - make it more attractive to non-traditional students. This is also the first time in several years that we have been able to attract non-traditional students and I believe it is because of the makeover,” said Settle.

Photo at right: Some of the volunteers who helped with the NASCAR makeover.



“Brewco Motorsports, a local NASCAR company, was instrumental in helping us to achieve the total makeover. However, the level of support from the local school district, business and industry representatives, parents, students, and teachers was overwhelming. With a lot of help and guidance, machine tool technology, welding and summer Art Camp student volunteers worked on the project. It was outstanding.”

“I have an instructor who is willing to think out of the box and has been creative. The collaborative effort among the local board of education, local businesses and high school art class was intricately involved in painting the murals,” said Muhlenberg Co. ATC Principal Andrew Swansey. “And, in addition to the newly renovated lab, the community has come together to help promote the program resulting in the highest level of enrollment ever. It’s amazing what can be done when so many people are working toward the same goal.”



Due to the growing demand for welders in the area, the advisory committee further recommended that a welding course be added to the machine tool technology program. The Muhlenberg Co. Board of Education has supported this effort by hiring a retired TVA welding instructor, Mr. J.B. Hunt, to work as an aid each Friday.

Donald Settle became NIMS (National Institute of Metal Working Skills) certified in 2003 and his program became accredited in August 2006.



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